

Nothing Patented in Looking at and Analyzing the Swing

1. As far as you are concerned is there a certain place or part in the swing that enables you to detect just what it is that a pupil may be doing wrong?
2. About how far away from the pupil, and at what angle from him, do you think an instructor should stand to get the best view of the pupil's swing?

Going on the theory that the teaching of the swing sequence, from the grip through the followthrough, is pretty well standardized, Golfdom recently checked with seven of the country's ablest pro instructors in an effort to determine if there may be any patented way of detecting swinging errors, or if there is any particular vantage point from which errors may be detected.

Upon reading the opinions expressed by these men to the two queries above, you undoubtedly will be impressed by the idea that no two teachers look at their pupils (or their errors) exactly alike, and while all may follow something of a general pattern in studying the swing effort, there are enough variations to definitely remove any suggestion of standardization from this part of the teaching routine.

Possibly none of the pros queried summed up the pro's task in checking the pupil's swing any better than Harvey Bunn of Forest Hills CC, Cornelius, Ore. In answer to the first question, Bunn said:

"While I recognize that the swing in the final analysis is the result of a series of rhythmic motions, I have always felt that the teacher has to look upon it as being made up of a group of separate motions. My point is that from the teaching standpoint, the parts of the swing aren't as closely interrelated as we may have been led to believe. The stance, the grip and the backswing each are separate and distinct parts. When the pupil gets to the top — what happens? He pauses or should. Then he introduces motion in an opposite direction. The downswing and followthrough probably are the only closely related actions in the swing, or should be from the teacher's viewpoint."

Sum of Small Parts

Continuing, Bunn says: "If the swing was completely fluid, and not the sum of a lot of small parts, anyone could analyze and then correct it. The real knack in teaching comes in being able to look closely at all the parts and detect what may be wrong with one or all of them.

**Don't Be Too Hasty
in Trying to Make
Those Corrections**



George Aulbach

Al Beister

... you have to move around

The so-called positive method of teaching, in which the pupil is told what to do, actually is the easiest part of instructing."

George Aulbach, veteran Lufkin (Tex.) CC teacher, maintains that with the average or below-average player, the faults that develop generally result from an overall breakdown of solid swing fundamentals. In most cases, a complete overhauling of the player's game is in order, but the pro usually has a hard time impressing this on the pupil. In such cases, Aulbach recommends at least going back and checking the grip and then reviewing the complete swing sequence.

"This," says George, "is a kind of quick-patch job, but it's usually what the player wants. When his swing goes sour again, which it probably will in a hurry, the player will try his 'correct-it-yourself' methods for a while. Then, completely tangled and kinked, he comes to the pro for another treatment. Usually," concludes George, "there isn't much point in going through a prolonged analysis. The best thing to do is go back to the fundamentals and hope that the pupil will come back often enough to eventually catch up with all of them."

Says It's a 'Hand Game'

Jack Schneiderman, pro at the CC of Natick (Mass.), feels that analysis properly starts with the hands (and wrists) and that the teacher should concentrate on determining whether they are in a concave or convex position when they are about hip high. He should also have the pupil swing the club often enough so that it can be determined whether the clubface is being opened or closed at the top. "The reason for concentrating on both these

points," says Schneiderman, "is because golf has developed into a 'hand game' or one, at least, in which the hands are the dominant factors in the hit."

What amounts to secondary positions or considerations, but are almost as important in the swing as the hands and should be studied very closely, says the Natick headmaster, are the start of the downswing in which the uncoiling of the body is triggered by supple footwork; position of the left arm (straight or bent) at impact; and the arc of the club going through the ball to determine if it is relatively level or if it describes a kind of swooping arc. It is thus apparent that Schneiderman's method of analysis is concentrated on the hands (or wrists and arms) in what he considers four of five major positions.

Advice For Young Pros

Another who puts great emphasis on the study of hand action is Guy Bellitt, pro at Whittier Narrows CC, South San Gabriel, Calif., who is so highly regarded as an instructor that he has regularly appeared at West Coast PGA Business Schools as conductor of the teaching sessions. "As far as I am concerned," Bellitt declares, "it's the hands all the way — in the address position, at the top and at impact and followthrough. I've always encouraged young pros to devote as much time as they can to acquiring the knack of catching hand action which, because it is so fast, is certainly not an easy thing to do. I also advise them to spend more time than in anything else in properly positioning the pupil's hands at address."

An interesting departure from total pre-
(Continued on page 81)

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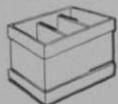
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Midwest GCSA Suggests Rules for Use of Cars

After a study of the golf car situation, the Midwest GCSA recommends the following general rules and regulations for the use of the cars:

1. Cars shall not be operated on tees. Use parking areas provided whenever possible. Do not park on the slopes of tees.
2. Cars shall not be driven within 15 yards of any putting green, particularly through areas between green and adjacent traps.



3. Do not operate cars on the slopes of the greens.
4. No more than two persons will ride in a car at any time. This rule is recommended to prevent over weight on the tires which will cause severe compaction of the soil.
5. Children under 16 years of age shall not operate cars.
6. **For Private Clubs.** Members shall be responsible for the actions of their guests while the guests are operating the cars.
7. Excessive speed or reckless driving is prohibited.
8. Avoid all low wet areas.

9. Upon posted notice at the starting tee, cars may be prohibited entirely because of course conditions.

10. Obey all path indicators on the course.
11. Remember that cars can be tipped and serious injuries may be the result of improper use.
12. Lock parking brake when vehicle is left unattended on an incline. Be sure parking brake is released during operation.
13. It is extremely dangerous to carry a club in your hand while driving or riding in a moving car.
14. Do not make a sharp turn at high speeds or on the downslope of a hill. The cars can be upset.
15. The car is yours for pleasure — respect the condition of the turf and obey the rules so that the use of cars can be practical.

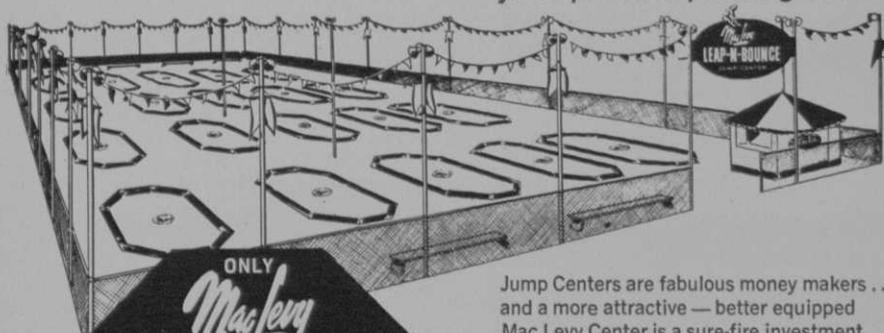
In addition to the above, the supts. feel that they should be the only ones to make decisions covering the use of cars on wet days, and club officials should give them 100 per cent support in the decisions they make.



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O. J. Noer's Turf Tips



Staking Out the Test Plot

Supts. and others like to test the effect of new materials, such as lime, fertilizer, insecticides, etc., on plots before large scale use. Unless the boundaries are well defined it is hard to locate the plots, especially when results are not strikingly visible to the eye. Marking the corners is difficult on large size plots. Stakes placed in the rough are a hindrance to mowing and may be pulled out by players.

Eliot Roberts, now in charge of turf-grass investigations at Iowa State University, has devised a very good marker for placement at the corners of plots.

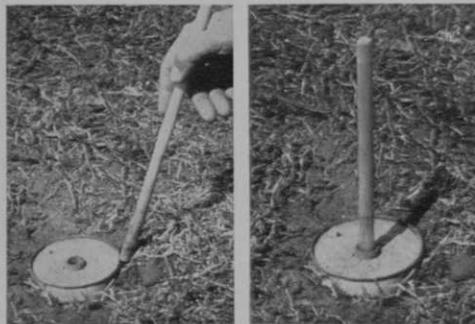
Concrete Used

He gets empty quart size oil cans from a nearby gas filling station. A small hole is made in the exact center of the bottom. He cuts a piece of quarter in. pipe to the exact length of the can. It is placed in the exact center of the can, directly over the hole. Then the can is filled with ready-mix concrete. The marker is ready for use after the concrete sets.

Roberts inserts $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. round wood stakes in the pipe whenever he wishes to outline the plots at the time treatments are made or, later, to judge results of the test material. Stock for making the stakes is obtained at the local lumber yard.



Plot marker made from a used quart size oil can. The drainage hole is shown at the right, pipe and stake at left.



(Left) Marker in place, flush with the ground, to permit mowing, and the round marker stake. (Right) Marker with stake in place.

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Behind-Scenes Maneuvering Causes Trouble at Many Clubs

Consultant says members are the real victims when manager has to overlook infringements of favored employees

(Second of two articles)

By **JOSEPH W. DRAGONETTI**

Leo Fraser, Philadelphia club owner and consultant, was asked to cite some case histories obtained in his and Harlan Will's consulting work to show some of the weaknesses in country club management and how they can be corrected. For obvious reasons, names of individuals and clubs are omitted but the cases point up some important lessons.

Case No. 1 concerns a club in the East which called in Fraser to make a survey about a year ago. He was asked to make a complete study of the operation. It was a good club and had excellent prospects. The members were fond of the pro and supt. The pair had done a good job, but Fraser was told by the mgr. himself that other employees seemed to be under constant tension. This was frequently reflected in the services provided in the club. There also was a heavy turnover of personnel. Fraser discovered that the membership was about equally divided in being in favor of and against the mgr.

Fraser discovered that much of the trouble at the club was caused by the lack of leadership on the part of the pres. He had been a compromise candidate in the annual election and so the membership wasn't 100 per cent behind him.

"In my conversation with the mgr.," Fraser says, "I concluded that he was experienced and capable. The pres. and board of directors had given me a month to find out what was wrong. I discovered the trouble in three days and informed them of what was causing it. They seemed to be rather small things in themselves but certainly affected the morale of the whole organization. And they weren't uncommon, by any means.

Atmosphere Not Good

"Mr. Manager had some difficult situations. For instance, about three times a week it was the custom of one of the members to play gin rummy and drink

with the bartender. These two were real buddies — a favorite bartender and a favorite club member. It was a nice friendship but the atmosphere created in the clubhouse certainly was not good.

"I also discovered that the chef was an excellent cook but a poor supervisor of kitchen help. He was not a leader. The head of the office was a woman who had been at the club for 20 years and seemed to feel that she had proprietary rights. She had seen several mgrs. come and go. I am not against veteran employees. Usually they are an asset to a club, but in the case of this woman her attitude was just not right.

Arranged Own Schedule

"In addition, there was a waitress who had been there fifteen years and had become accustomed to arranging her own work schedule. She also felt that she had proprietary rights. Common sense shows that taking advantage of seniority and such things tears down the morale of other employees. But nothing was done to correct the situation. One of the unusual things about the whole case was that the club paid above average wages, yet quite a few people were unhappy because of the behavior of a few."

Fraser recommended to the manager that he fire the three people — bartender, office head and waitress — who were causing the trouble.

"They wouldn't let me," the mgr. replied. Anyone familiar with golf and country club operations, of course, knows who "they" are.

Fraser made his report to the board in less than a week. He recommended to the mgr. that he resign unless he was given real authority to run the club.

The report was accepted by the directors. It included recommendations that the mgr. be given full authority and the offending employees told to change their ways or face dismissal. Fraser said he would like to report that the "old favorites" changed their working habits, but

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such is not the case. They toned them down. However, the mgr. is still on the job and the club is doing better than it was.

When things like this happen, says Fraser, the members unfortunately are innocent victims of conditions that many don't even know exist.

More recently, Fraser was consulted about a mgr. about to be hired by a club. He was from the South but wanted to relocate in the northeastern section.

The man was hired on a temporary basis to see if he could fill the post. He was not given a contract. After observing the clubhouse operations, the temporary mgr. told officials of the club that according to the duties they assigned him they didn't want a mgr., but a maitre de. Apparently the members and committees were running the club, not the mgr. As Fraser pointed out to the officials a man can't manage unless he is given the authority to do so.

Financial Trouble

Still another case involves a club that was in financial trouble. A survey made by Fraser disclosed that all employees were paid the first of the month. In this particular month, after all salaries had been paid, there was \$30 in the bank and about \$21,000 in debts. The manager had resigned about six weeks before.

The club had about 300 members. After discussing the situation with the pro and the supt., Fraser concluded that the club had a great potential for rehabilitation and sound management. What it needed was some immediate administration and operational control. Fraser hired, on a temporary basis, a man who had been trained in the hotel business and a start was made toward setting up a better system. But the trouble continued. Some firms, to which the club was indebted, wanted to reclaim some of the equipment which had been purchased on installment because the payments had lapsed. The club was slipping into the throes of bankruptcy.

Looking further into the books, Fraser discovered that most of the transactions in the past were done about 60 per cent on a cash basis without proper controls. Any diligent mgr. would have understood that something was wrong. There were other troubles. The supt. did not have the proper equipment to work with. The clubhouse was in poor repair and needed to be brought up to date. Fraser estimated that it would take from \$80,000 to \$100,000



Mary Lena Faulk, who seems to have suddenly found herself, is seen accepting Triangle Round Robin trophy after victory in that event, played in June at Wykagyl CC, New Rochelle, N. Y. Carl S. Menger, pres. of Triangle Conduit & Cable Co., New Brunswick, N. J. makes the presentation. Mary Lena nosed out Louise Suggs to win the Triangle after having won the Women's Western the week before. The following week she came back to win the Women's Eastern for three in a row.

to do the job properly. But where was the money to come from?

Appeals To Members

Fraser was retained to supervise a long-range program. The club had a substantial membership which turned out to be very cooperative. A new bookkeeping system was installed and tight auditing controls established. All members were asked to deposit \$100 in advance payments for future services. Nearly \$30,000 was raised to pay off debts and to provide a little working capital. The members also were asked to deposit fifty cents as an assessment for each round of golf they played.

Within a few months confidence was restored in the club. A young and aggressive mgr. was hired to promote events that produce revenue and he succeeded in uniting the membership behind the rehabilitation program. In the first year it was in force the club showed a substantial profit.

Advice Not Always Taken

Consultants like to think that their advice always is taken. But that doesn't mean that it is. Fraser tells of one incident where a club came to him asking what he thought about building a Par 3 on a piece of property owned by the club. Fraser and his partner, Will, looked into the matter and decided that everything was favorable. The pair, at the request of

Continued on page 78)